

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on September 1, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of this application, the allowance of claims 10-15, 18, and 23-26, and the indication that claim 22 contains allowable subject matter.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 10, 18, and 22-23 only editorially. Claims 16-17 and 19-21 are cancelled. Claims 10, 18 and 22 are independent claims, and claims 10-15, 18, and 22-26 remain now pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that, as a preliminary matter, the text of several of the claims is choppy and unclear in places (see claim 10, line 4, claim 16, lines 2 and 8, claim 18, lines 3 and 10, claim 22, line 1, and claim 23, line 1, for example). In response thereto, claim 16 has been cancelled and claims 10, 18, 22, and 23 have been amended typographically to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. The objection therefore clearly is inapplicable to the amended claims 10, 18, 22 and 23 and accordingly should be withdrawn.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 10-15, 18 and 23-26 are allowable over the prior art record, and claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 22 has been amended as independent form to include all of the features of the base claims from which they directly depend. As such, claim 10-15, 18 and 22-26 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Lai (U.S. Patent No. 6,825,497). Claims 16-17 and 19-21 have been cancelled and it is respectfully submitted that the rejection no longer is applicable and accordingly should be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 10-15, 18 and 22-26, earnestly is solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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